



SPOTLIGHT

ON ESSEX COUNTY

Spring 2011

A Journey of Courage and Faith

The Harrow Mennonites:
From Russia to Essex County

'Last Friday Coffee House' attracts musicians, audiences

Monthly show features variety of musical styles

From Open Skies to Open Hearts

Essex County's Purple Martins

Features: All About Books • A Taste of Essex County • How It's Made

SPOTLIGHT ON ESSEX COUNTY

Spotlight on Essex County is published by

ESSEX
freepress
Limited

and distributed via Canada Post

For Advertising Enquiries:

16 Centre Street
Essex, Ontario N8M 1N9
Phone: 519-776-4268
Fax: 519-776-4014
Email: info@essexfreepress.ca
Website: www.essexfreepress.ca

Editorial content is protected by copyright law. Unauthorized use or reproduction of the contents of this publication without the written consent of the publisher is prohibited.

Publisher is responsible for errors in advertising only to the extent of the cost of that portion of the advertising space occupied by the error.

PUBLISHER & EDITOR

Laurie Brett

ADVERTISING

Erin Squance

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Andy Comber

Art Rhyno

Dan Schwab

BOOK REVIEWERS

Connie-Jean Latam

Margaret J. McMaster

Lynda Schlichther

Elly Takaki

PRODUCTION

Lana Garant

Tom Warwick

OFFICE

Sarah Krauter-Adams

Barb Seegers

ELSA BRUSH
(nee PAPKE)

COVER PHOTO BY
ANDY COMBER



Table of Contents

4

'Last Friday Coffee House' attracts musicians, audiences

Monthly show features variety of musical styles

6

A Journey of courage and faith

The Harrow Mennonites: From Russia to Essex County

8

The Essex County Redemption of Ty Cobb

Baseball's legendary slugger found friendship here

10

Essex County's modern-day lumberman

Craftsman puts Essex County's history on wheels

12

Imagination fuels tiny trains for modeling enthusiasts

Model train guild started in McGregor has members across Canada

14

How It's Made

Ice Sculpture: Turning ice into a cool art

16

Mysteries of Essex County

UFOs, ghosts and other eerie tales

17

All About Books

19

'The Ordinary People of Essex' from 200 years ago

Author delves into history of the region and its hard-working people

20

Natural Treasures of Essex County

From Open Skies to Open Hearts: Essex County's Purple Martins

22

A Taste of Essex County

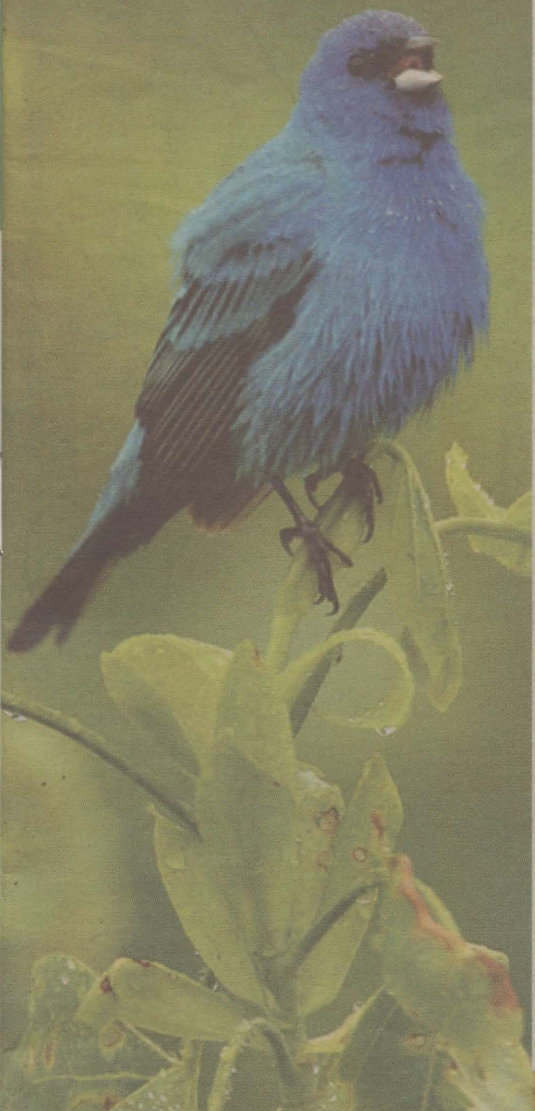
Pelee Island Winery

www.peleeisland.com a taste worth discovering

1-800-597-3533
TOURS DAILY: 12pm 2pm 4pm

PELEE ISLAND
WINERY

taste the flavours of the Island



Editor's Note

Have you ever wondered how places like Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, or the entire province of Newfoundland and Labrador have become so culturally rich? Driving through the barrens that lead from Canso to Sydney or Port-aux-Basques to Cornerbrook, you'd never stop to think that this is where culture lives. You'd be far more likely to wonder where the heck the people are and how do they manage to survive out here in the wilderness. (Okay, I admit, those were my initial thoughts 20 years ago, but my perceptions have changed dramatically.)

Having spent a great deal of time on the East Coast, I can say with some certainty that places like Canso and Cornerbrook can't rely on massive urban populations to build and sustain cultural enterprises. Nor can they depend on diverse ethnic populations to infuse their communities with unique cultural offerings. They're too small for ballet and opera, they're unlikely to have many, if any, museums, and even the ubiquity of "pop" culture is only available at some distance.

And yet these places are considered to be cultural meccas for people looking for rugged beauty and Celtic roots. Of course, it doesn't hurt that entertainers like Rita McNeil, Natalie McMaster, The Rankins, Great Big Sea and a host of actors and comedians hail from these places. When one puts down a fiddle or drops a line, another picks it up. Indeed, the synergies that people have developed within the broader "arts" community have sustained many artists – painters, actors, comedians, musicians, writers and many more – in places that might otherwise be considered somewhat stark.

So, what prevents the people of Essex County from fostering a similar type of rich cultural heritage? Absolutely nothing, except the will to work on it. That's exactly what Dale Butler and his ever-changing cast of guest musicians are trying to do with the "Friday Night Coffee House" concept. On the last Friday of the month, Butler and an eclectic group of musicians gather in Leamington to share their talents with anyone who's willing to listen. I became a fan of the coffee house in January 2010 when it played in the newly renovated Leamington Arts Centre. Covers of classics (everything from bluegrass to folk) alternated with original pieces from local "indie" artists. It was quite possibly the most exhilarating January evening I'd ever spent, and judging from the appreciative crowd others felt the same way.

In this edition of *Spotlight on Essex County*, we lead off with Dan Schwab's story on Dale Butler's "Last Friday Coffee House." It seems appropriate, as spring gets underway, to share our knowledge of this local treasure and the "culture" that's slowly taking root out in the county.

Laurie Brett



JAMES SYLVESTRE ENTERPRISES 2003

The Leading Edge

This is Building #1156.

Let us Build 1157 for you!



www.jseltd.ca

(519) 735-6606

'Last Friday Coffee House'

By Dan Schwab

Monthly show
features variety
of musical styles

On the last Friday of every month, you might see anything from folk singers and balladeers to Celtic acts, cellists, dueling guitars or a huge Peruvian harp playing music on stage at the Cup2Mug Lounge in Leamington.

That's when the "Last Friday Coffee House" performers get together to play their eclectic mix of songs for a loyal audience gathered in the dimly lit basement at 11 Queens Street.

At each show, organizer/musician Dale Butler lines up a new set of musicians to treat the audience to a free intimate concert sometimes lasting as long as three hours.

The musicians, who perform both original songs and tributes to famous artists, hit the stage for



ARE YOU
READY FOR
SPRING????

**NO PAYMENTS NO
INTEREST FOR 12
MONTHS ON YOUR
AGLINE ACCOUNT***AA34

Select Series X320-48X mower

- Select Models include 4 yr warranty
- Check out the New D100 Series
- An Expert Cut in Expert Time



We have a **COMPLETE LINE** of John Deere products to meet any need. Plus, a knowledgeable sales staff that can help you at every turn.

JANZEN EQUIPMENT LIMITED
410 HIGHWAY 77
RR #3
LEAMINGTON, ON N8H 3V6
(519) 326-3261

*Offer valid from February 01, 2011 until May 01, 2011. In the event the first year into default, the charge for accounts past due is 18.75% APR/ACR until paid in full. Taxes, set-up, delivery, freight, and preparation charges not included and may increase price as monthly payments. Minimum purchase required. See your dealer for details. Program subject to change, without notice, at any time. **Offer subject to AgLineTM approval and dealer participation. For purchases on AgLine agricultural accounts and commercial accounts only. Offer is unconditionally accepted for the first 12 months. After the 12 month period, for eligible purchases of goods and services: 1) minimum monthly payment required (see example below); and 2) finance charges will begin to accrue immediately on amount financed at 18.75% per annum until paid in full. No down payment required. A statement of account will be provided monthly. For example, after the 12 month period, on a new John Deere model 5270, based on a cash selling price of \$11,673 (including \$1,167 dealer prep) as of 11 November 2010 and any change at any time without notice. Dealer may call to loan less a down payment of \$3,000, to be financed for a maximum of 78 months with 60 monthly payments of \$290.32, resulting in a total amount to be paid of \$18,161.45. 1) Taxes, set-up, delivery, freight, and preparation charges not included and may increase price as monthly payments. These are suggested retail prices only as of 12 January 2011 and are subject to change, without notice, at any time. Minimum finance amount may be required. See your dealer for details. Program subject to change, without notice, at any time John Deere's green and yellow color scheme, the leaping deer symbol, and JOHN DEERE are trademarks of Deere & Company. The engine horsepower information is provided by the engine manufacturer to be used for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower will be less.

Sam Neufeld Dick



John McDonald

attracts musicians, audiences

Joel Westlake

Steve Morin

Dale Butler

free. But it's a way to reach a wider audience and get some feedback on their new material.

"It's a great opportunity, especially for songwriters," Butler says. "If they're writing their own stuff, it's a chance for them to try out new songs and see if people like them."

Butler, a singer/songwriter and guitarist, has been playing in coffee houses for decades.

Starting his own coffee house concert series is something he's been dreaming about since he was a college student.

"I always thought in the back of my mind that I wanted to do that, I wanted to run one, because it's fun," Butler says.

After getting involved with the Windsor Folk Club, which runs a similar coffee house concert series in the city, Butler says he was inspired to start something up for music-lovers in the county.

"It's okay to drive to Windsor to do that but I thought it would be nice for our

local folks here to not have to run so far to do the same thing," Butler says.

Audiences range from about 60 to 120 people per show.

When Butler lined up a roster of musicians for the first "Last Friday Coffee House," he called all the performers and asked if they'd like to participate. After several shows, the monthly event has developed a reputation among musicians and now they get in touch with him for a spot on the stage.

At each show, audiences are treated to a variety of musical genres, from acoustic-based folk to oldies to ethnic-influenced traditional music from around the world.

"It's quite a wide cross-section of styles," Butler says.

As an added quirk at each show, Butler raffles off (for free) random items from his basement, from decades-old trinkets to photographs and artworks.

Along with the monthly musical event, Butler also coordinates an annual "Walk, Rock 'n Roll" fundraiser for South Essex Community Council programs.

Upcoming Coffee Houses: April 29, 7 p.m. & May 27, 7 p.m.

**CAN YOU
DIG IT?
WE CAN**

- Wet Basements
- Septic Systems
- Demolition
- Excavating
- Drainage
- Sewer Installs and Repairs



RUDAK
EXCAVATING INC.

Call Today!

519-946-0297
www.Rudaks.com

THE FLARROW MENNONITES:

From Russia to Essex County

A journey of courage and faith

By Andy Comber

The newborn cried, taking her first breath. It was a joyful sound to her parents, Gerhard and Maria Papke, as they welcomed the birth of their third daughter, Elsa.

It was February 14, 1919. The birth was cause for celebration in the tiny village of Landskrone, a Mennonite settlement in Ukraine, located in southern Russia. But outside the home, there was cause for concern. Russia was in the midst of a civil war.

The civil war had begun in 1918 shortly after the revolution. On one side was the Red Army led by the Bolsheviks, the uprising Communists. On the other side was the White Army, monarchists loyal to Tsar Nicholas, moderates, and volunteers backed by the Allied nations.

The Bolsheviks killed the Tsar and his family in July 1918. But the civil war continued.

Elsa was only an infant at the time, but as she grew older, she heard many stories of the family's plight.

"Our village was right in the path of the advancing Red Army," she says.

Artillery shells sometimes hit the village. It is certain the conflict encouraged Gerhard to evacuate the family to safer territory.

The Russian Mennonites were a group of Mennonites descended from the Dutch and mainly Germanic Prussian Anabaptists. Many had

established colonies in southern Russia, beginning in 1789, to escape the pressure to fight in European wars. War was something unacceptable to their pacifist doctrine. And now civil war was at their doorstep.

Elsa's earliest memories were of growing up in Pordenau, also located in southern Russia.

"My father was the school teacher," Elsa says. "We lived in a big white schoolhouse. One side was the school and the other side was our living quarters, separated by a big hall. I remember it well."

"Elsa remembers many things about Russia.

"I loved the aspen trees. A family of storks nested on a neighbour's barn. I used to lay in the grass and watch the baby storks. I've been a bird watcher all my life."

By 1920, the Red Army had prevailed and the civil war was over for southern Russia. Elsa was only an infant when soldiers occupied the schoolhouse.

"If you were a Bolshevik you could do whatever you wanted," she says.

In 1922, Joseph Stalin was General Secretary of the Communist Party. That year, the Papke family celebrated the arrival of their son, Rudy, born on September 13.

By the mid-1920s, the Communists were in firm control. State officials told Gerhard that he could not teach religion.

"My father was told to renounce Christianity – to teach the children that there was no God," Elsa says. "He knew he could not raise his children in a place without God."

Gerhard made preparations to leave Russia in 1926. Some of Maria's family had immigrated to Canada in 1922, settling near Kingsville. Canada offered promise for a better future for the Papke children, Martha, Margaret, Elsa, Rudy and the latest addition to the family, Hilda.

Elsa was seven years old at the time the family left Pordenau, a time she remembers vividly.

"I remember the wagon

88-year-old Rudy Papke holds the wedding picture of his parents, Gerhard Papke and Maria Schroeder.

A picture of Maria Schroeder's family taken in Russia in the early 1920s.

A faded postcard shows the rail path to the gates of Latvia. The Papke family travelled through this gate on their way to Canada in 1926.

Elsa Papke was seven years old when she received this postcard from a friend, before her family immigrated to Canada in 1926.

A young Elsa Papke, front right, is pictured at her Uncle Peter Schroeder's wedding in Russia.



being packed to get us to the train," she says. "There were a lot of tears."

"I remember the villagers come out to see us off. They sang a hymn – 'God be with you, till we meet again.' It took a lot of courage for my parents to leave."

The train would carry the family north towards the Baltic Sea. Elsa has a faded postcard showing the train's path to the gates of Latvia and freedom from Russia.

"As soon as the train passed into Latvia, everyone fell to their knees and thanked God," Elsa says. "It was very overwhelming."

Reaching the Baltic seaport of Riga, the family boarded the S.S. Baltriger, a small steamer that took them to southern England. From Southampton, the Papkes started their journey across the Atlantic aboard the S.S. Marloch, Elsa says.

"We were in the steerage – below deck – the cheapest section. My parents were seasick for the whole voyage."

When the Papke family landed at Quebec in September 1926, they had been at sea for 16 days.

"All I remember of Quebec is the huge walls made of stone," Elsa says.

They travelled by train to meet Elsa's Uncle John Schroeder. After a brief time in Kingsville, the family was placed on a farm in Leamington.

"Most people treated us beautifully," Elsa says. "But my father started sharecropping, and we were soon taken advantage of by others."

"We were moved to a shack, an old tobacco kiln. Snow would blow through the cracks in the wall – it was freezing cold," she says.

In 1929, Schroeder helped the family join other Russian Mennonites, negotiating to purchase 200 acres on the 5th Concession, just north of Harrow. Twelve families and four individuals secured a 200-acre farm there for \$20,000. Each settler received \$350 for a house building and a \$350 credit at the lumberyard as part of an agreement signed by the Canadian Mennonite Board of Colonization. Each party was also given \$75 to buy a cow.

A number of families crowded into the old farmhouse on the property, said to be 140 years old today. It became the Papke home, and it remains, today, the home of Rudy Papke and his wife Bernice.

Families would stay at the Papke farmhouse while the residents of the settlement would build them a home. Gerhard had studied some theology in Switzerland, before World War I. He or a minister from Leamington would conduct Sunday services.

"Then the Depression hit," Elsa says. Several original settlers moved away during the early 1930s. But other Mennonites from more troubled regions also settled in Essex

County.

Despite the troubled economic times, Elsa and Rudy have many fond memories of their time growing up on the Harrow farm.

"Harrow was an absolutely fabulous place for a 10-year-old," says Elsa.

By the 1940s, the Mennonite community had grown significantly. In 1950, under the leadership of their minister, Herman Lepp Sr., the congregation bought a church lot on Walker Road, just north of Harrow. A church was built and dedicated on November 25, 1951, and in 1953, chartered under the name Harrow United Mennonite Church.

Gerhard's decision to take his family out of Russia proved to be very wise. The Mennonite families that stayed behind, including many relatives, faced persecution under the Communist regime. Elsa's native Landskrone and other Mennonite villages disintegrated. Many of the men were sent into exile. When the German Army approached in 1941, the men and later the women and children were sent to Siberia.

Elsa married Ralph Brush in September 1943. The couple had five children, three girls and two boys. Rudy Papke married Bernice Ackerman in June 1951. They raised five girls and a boy in the farmhouse.

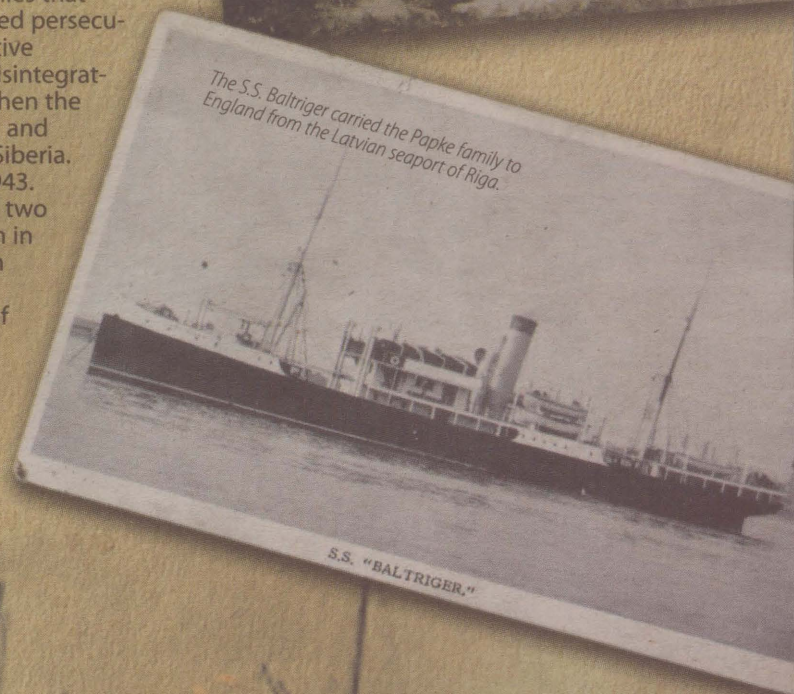
Gerhard passed away in 1957 at the age of 70, and Maria in 1961 at age 76. But in their lifetime, through a journey of courage and faith, they achieved that promise of a bright future for their children and a welcoming community.



Elsa Papke, left, talks to a friend at the Harrow Mennonite settlement.



A faded photograph shows the family of Gerhard and Maria Papke during their time sharecropping in Essex County.



The S.S. Baltriger carried the Papke family to England from the Latvian seaport of Riga.



The S.S. Marloch carried the Papke family over the Atlantic in 1926.

AUGUSTINE

· V I L L A S ·

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY • ASSISTED LIVING

54 SPRUCE STREET NORTH, KINGSVILLE.

519-733-8376

www.augustinevillas.com

Free Quotes

AUTO ✓ HOME ✓ BUSINESS ✓ LIFE

AR All-Risks Insurance
BROKERS LIMITED

We Got You COVERED

Fast Service...

AMAZING RATES!

P: 519.776.4523

F: 519.776.4715

341 Talbot Street North Unit # 2 - Essex, ON
www.all-risks.com



THE ESSEX COUNTY REDEMPTION OF TY COBB

By Art Rhyno

The crowd waiting for the Windsor Ferry avoided the centre of the sidewalk that led to the Detroit dock. A customs official was there to make sure no one blocked the path of the arriving passengers. On that warm August evening in 1918, only one man seemed to be unaware of the pathway rule. He was clearly furious when the official pushed him out of the way, an action that caused him to fall over. The man gestured at two nearby police officers yelling, "I am a Mason and the customs official is a brother Mason, but be damned if he's going to push me around when I'm here meeting guests."

The officers knew the man well. His name was Ty Cobb, possibly the most famous baseball player in the world, and they were only too well aware that the only thing that might possibly match Cobb's talent was the force of his hair-trigger temper.

The guests that Cobb was meeting were Jack Miner, the well known naturalist, and Miner's young son Manly, who had arranged for his father to make the trip in order to see Cobb in action with the Detroit Tigers.

An Unlikely Friendship

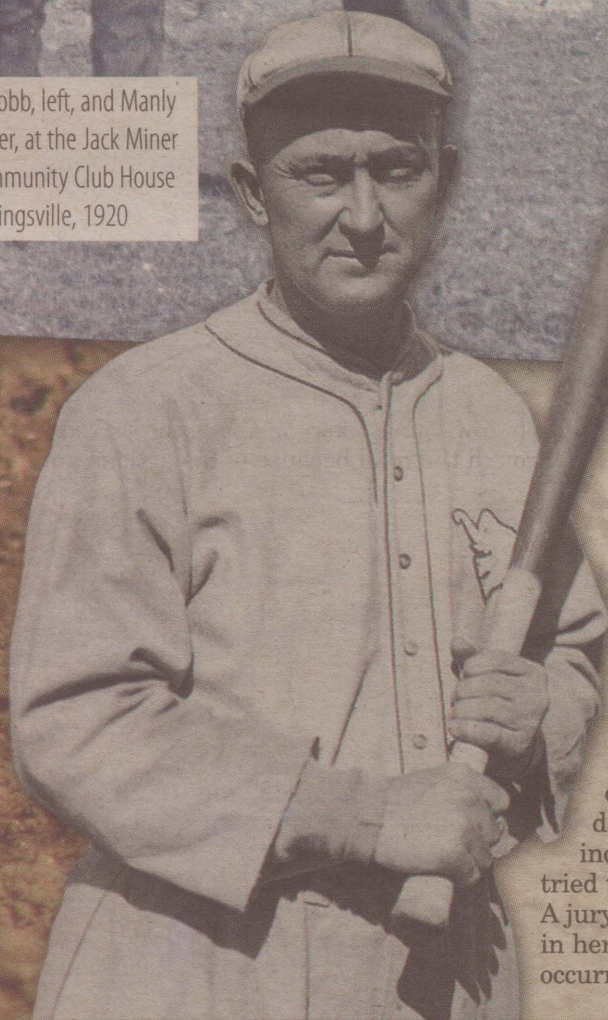
To onlookers, Ty Cobb and Jack Miner might have appeared to be unlikely friends, and one can only wonder what Miner, the great orator on the subject of harmony between species, thought of Cobb's outbursts on the drive away from the dock. Years later, Miner would tell a reporter that even though he never understood why Cobb did the things he did, he always considered him a friend. For his part, Cobb described Miner as closer to nature's wonder than any man he ever knew, and that knowing Miner as a friend was one of the finest things that ever happened to him.

Jack Miner would be one of several personal connections to Essex County for Ty Cobb. Among the many periods of Cobb's life, made legendary almost as much by his outrageous behaviour as his baseball record, it is in his time in Essex County that one can begin to understand how Miner and his family could see beyond the personality that even Cobb's own teammates had trouble with.

Both men had seen tragedy and had worked hard to make their way in the world. Miner was the fifth of ten children who arrived with his parents in Essex County at the age of 12. He overcame poverty to create a successful pheasant farm and settle down with his own family. He would then face a series of tragedies involving the loss of his three-year-old daughter and eldest son, as well as a beloved brother. Cobb's dark memories would include an incident where his mother had fatally shot his father in a bizarre accident. Cobb's father had tried to sneak into his home by going through the window after a romantic liaison with a neighbour. A jury would agree with the story that Cobb's mother told, that she thought there was an intruder in her house and shot him. By all accounts, Cobb remained close to his mother. Yet the tragedy occurred just weeks before he made his debut with the Tigers in 1905, and the then-18-year-old

*"A ball bat is
a wondrous
weapon."*

Ty Cobb, left, and Manly Miner, at the Jack Miner Community Club House in Kingsville, 1920



WILDWOOD
Golf & R.V. Resort

Play...Relax...Enjoy!

2011 UNLIMITED GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Single.....\$1150
Spousal.....\$1600
Includes HST

Looking For A "Home"
For Your Golf League?

22 Weeks of Challenging Golf **\$297.00**
Per Player/Includes HST

WILDWOOD GOLF & RV RESORT • 11th Concession Rd., McGregor
(519) 726-6176, ext. 10 • 1-866-994-9699, ext. 10 • wildwoodgolfandrresort.com

**Come in and see our line up
of Toro & LawnBoy mowers**

Special pre-season pricing
before April 15th

Spring
Tune-up Specials
from
\$54⁹⁵

Great Lakes Outdoor Power Equipment
"Your Lawn & Garden Equipment Specialist"

438 Talbot St. N., Essex
519-776-8778

Hours:
M-F 8:30-5
Sat. 9-noon

Postcard of Michigan Central Railroad, Essex station.

"Every great batter works on the theory that the pitcher is more afraid of him than he is of the pitcher."

quickly acquired an inability to tolerate any insult that would lead to difficult relationships throughout his life.

For Jack Miner, the answer to hardship was to embrace religious faith and reach out to those around him to better appreciate nature, an effort that led to a lecture and radio broadcast circuit that would establish him as one of the most recognized figures in the world.

But for Ty Cobb, the answer to hardship was self-reliance and suspicion of others. "He just had a short fuse," says Kirk Miner, Jack's grandson. "But he was very kind to our family."

Cobb had read about Jack Miner's successful efforts to create a bird sanctuary in a place that he realized was not that far from Detroit. Manly Miner answered the phone when the caller introduced himself as "Tyrus Raymond Cobb" and was amazed that his baseball idol was asking if he could visit. Cobb's first trip would include a tour of Manly's collection of baseball pictures that covered the walls of his bedroom, and in time, Cobb's entire family would be frequent visitors to the Miner family's homestead in Kingsville. Cobb would go on a hunting trip north of Sudbury with the Miners, and paid for a baseball field to be placed at Miner's sanctuary. "Jack thought the kids needed an alternative to the pool hall," Kirk points out, "and Ty was always supportive of Jack's ideas."

Special fans

Several years after the ferry incident, a group of 30 young men on a bicycle trip from Toronto to the sanctuary stayed the night when a storm came up out of nowhere. Jack Miner told the group nature stories in front of the fireplace and mentioned that Cobb had been his house guest the night before. The visitors, who had planned to go to a Tiger game as part of the trip, were greatly impressed. Miner called Cobb that evening to tell him about the Canadian bike club that was going to be in the stands for his next game.

Cobb told Miner that he wanted them to be his guests, and the young men were to identify themselves at the wicket on their arrival at Tiger Stadium. When Cobb came out of the dugout and saw the seats that had been reserved for his guests, he felt they were too far from the action and arranged for them to be moved to the reserved box section. Cobb met and shook hands with the cyclists between innings, and presented them with autographed baseballs when the game was over.

Perhaps Ty Cobb remembered an Essex kid from years earlier, during the 1909 World Series. As Bill Gay,

a local historian, relates the tale, there was a warrant out in Ohio for Ty Cobb's arrest, stemming from an incident in which he slugged a fan after a game with the Cleveland Indians. The Tigers were scheduled to play the Pittsburgh Pirates but Cobb couldn't travel through Ohio enroute to Pennsylvania. To get him to the game, Cobb was sent on the Michigan Central Line to Essex, then through to Buffalo, in order to avoid going through Ohio. "A judge in Cleveland would have loved to have put Cobb in jail at that time," says Gay, "and a trip on the Central Line would have put him on the platform in Essex as one of the main stops on the way."

Don Murray, an Essex youngster, was tipped off that Cobb would be traveling through and waited at the station for a glimpse of the legend. According to baseball lore, Cobb stepped off the train and talked to Murray, giving Cobb a nice interlude in his journey and Murray a memory to last a lifetime.

"To get along with me, don't increase my tension."

The Legacy

Ty Cobb's baseball record is one of the greatest of all time. He played 22 seasons with the Tigers, received the most votes of any player on the inaugural Baseball Hall of Fame ballot, and still holds the highest career batting average. He was also a shrewd businessman, making millions by investing in General Electric and a little known Georgia-based beverage company called Coca Cola. He was one of the first professional athletes to use product endorsements to increase his wealth. Although Cobb could be incredibly generous, his many disputes and physical altercations with those around him often overshadowed his substantial contributions. The Cobb Memorial Hospital was started with a large cash donation from Cobb in his parents' name, and the Cobb Educational Fund, a scholarship he started for needy students, has helped thousands of Georgians get a college degree.

By the time of his death, Ty Cobb had been through two failed marriages, had seen two of his three sons die young, and had watched his name be both praised and dragged through the mud because of his actions and temper. At his funeral on July 18, 1961, the pastor summed up Cobb's life perfectly when he said Ty Cobb was never satisfied with second-best. When he crossed the Detroit River into Canada, it may have been among the few times that Ty Cobb could leave his shadow behind.

For more on Ty Cobb:

Ty Cobb: Safe at Home. Don Rhodes. The Lyons Library. 2008. Essex County Library, Essex Branch. Call Number: 796 .357 092 Rho

Famous Men I Have Known. Manly F. Miner. (Includes a chapter on Ty Cobb).

"When I played ball, I didn't play for fun. It's no pink tea, and mollycoddles had better stay out. It's a contest and everything that implies, a struggle for supremacy, a survival of the fittest."

A dispatch from Augusta, Ga., Dec. 27th says: "Ty Cobb has a wild goose that was sent southward two years ago by his friend Jack Miner, at Kingsville, Ont. The goose, however, was not sent to Cobb. It was simply turned loose with a leg band, on which were inscribed the details of its release and a Biblical quotation, "Be not afraid, only near Augusta by a party of hunters, including Jack Roundtree, McAlpine Rucker and Charles Pitcher. The nimble, learning of the friendship between Cobb and Miner, presented the bird to the famous Augustan. Miner was notified."
—The Essex Free Press (Jan. 16, 1931)



Great Canadian OIL CHANGE

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD OIL CHANGE

- DEALERSHIP WARRANTY APPROVED
- DRIVE THROUGH SERVICE
- NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY



It's Our Duty to Your Car! SINCE 1978

Leamington & Kingsville's Only Emissions Test Only Facility

24 Seacliff Rd. E. Leamington On.
1 Block East of Erie on South Side

519.322.5557

OPEN
Mon-Fri 8am-6pm
Sat 8am-4pm

SAVE \$5.00 OFF

ANY OIL CHANGE PACKAGE

STARTING AT \$39.99



BDO IS GROWING!

We are pleased to announce our merger with Meyer & Wolfe LLP, effective January 1, 2011. Bryan Meyer, FCA, and Mary Wolfe, CA, and their team of professionals join our firm in our new Harrow office, from which they will help to serve our broad range of clients in the community with quality advice and personalized service.

37 King Street West, Harrow 519 738 2236

180 Talbot Street South, Essex 519 776 6488

www.bdo.ca

BDO Canada LLP, a Canadian limited liability partnership, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms. BDO is the brand name for the BDO network and for each of the BDO-Member Firms.



Essex County's Modern-Day Lumberman

Craftsman puts Essex County's history on wheels

By Andy Comber

Like the voice of lightning, a thunderous crack breaks the air. A gigantic tree falls. Branches and smaller trees in its path are smashed to bits. The earth shakes, embracing the tremendous weight. Men toil with axe and saw – lumber builds a nation.

This scene could be from the forests of British Columbia, but this is Essex County in the 19th century.

The forests of this region must have been intact when viewed by Anna Jameson. She had sailed from London, England, in 1836, to join her husband in Upper Canada, where he was serving as attorney general. In her travel book published the next year, *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles*, she described her journey through the forests of southwestern Ontario.

"So thick was the overhanging foliage that it not only shut out the sunshine, but almost the daylight; and we travelled on through a perpetual gloom of vaulted boughs and intermingled shade... the timber was all hard timber, walnut, beech and basswood, oak and maple of most luxuriant growth."

Most of these resources continued to exist when James McCracken left Hanover, Ontario, to establish a sawmill in Essex County.

His brother Joseph, also a lumberman, headed for Arkansas, where it is said he became quite wealthy in the industry.

Grandson to James, 80-year-old Bob McCracken still resides on the family homestead east of Staples, on County Road 8. It was established in 1886.

"At that time, oak was plentiful here and much in demand for shipbuilding," Bob says.

James eventually set up a lumber and stave mill, situating it close to the railroad.

In 1840, there were six sawmills in Essex County, Bob says. By James' time, in the 1880s, there were more than 25. The developments of the Industrial Revolution had reached Canada. Steam engines could drive mechanized saws, cutting lumber at an incredible rate. The numerous sawmills depleted the great forests within a period of 25 years.

The McCracken family turned to farming. Bob's father, William, was never in the lumber business. He established a beef cattle and dairy farm.

People often inherit some of the traits of their ancestors – appearances, abilities and characteristics. Bob certainly took to farming, running the McCracken dairy farm for many years. Later he took another job working maintenance at the water plant in Ruthven. But he has always enjoyed working with wood, he says.

"I remember as a boy, my friend and me

building all kinds of things out of tobacco slats. Right from the time we were children, I was making things with wood. When the war was on, you couldn't buy metal toys."

At age 22, Bob was introduced to Shirley Nelson. They became a couple on February 21, 1953. Woodworking could only be a

hobby, with the demands of family, farm and work, Bob says.

"After turning 50, I started doing more. It took that long before I had any spare time."

At an auction sale in Wallaceburg, Bob found a scale model of a stagecoach.

"I was thinking, when I retire I'd like to build a full-scale stagecoach."

The stagecoach idea would remain at the back of his mind. But after his retirement at age 60, Bob got the idea to find and restore an old sawmill on his property. His grandfather James would have been proud, but it was an ambitious project.

"I say it was a state of mental illness," Bob muses. "A moment of insanity."

The first sawmill he investigated was one that had operated at Reece's Corners, near Wyoming, Ontario.

"That was not successful," he says.

He visited another sawmill located near Thamesville.

"It looked like what appeared to be three loads of junk."

Bob eventually put the "junk" together, building a functioning saw driven from a farm tractor's power takeoff. A McCracken was back in the lumber business.

Bob McCracken explains the construction techniques he uses to build a stagecoach.



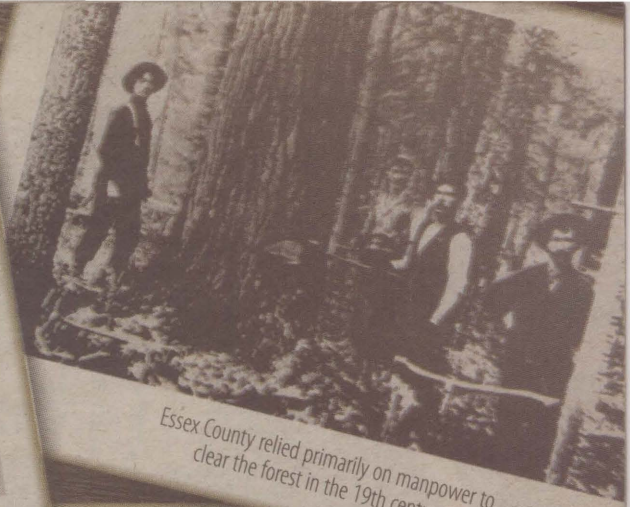
Bob McCracken explains how he made the wheel on his gigantic wheelbarrow.

McCracken's

Since 1886



Gigantic trees arrive at the Ainslie lumber mill in the early 1920s. Trees of this size were once common in Essex County.



Essex County relied primarily on manpower to clear the forest in the 19th century.

Bob's first major project was the full-scale build of a democrat wagon, a light, flatbed farm wagon that has two or more seats and is usually drawn by one or sometimes two horses.

"It was the pickup truck of the day – an oversized buggy."

Making the wooden wheels proved to be a tremendous challenge. The wood for the rims must be steamed and conditioned to take an end without breaking. Bob manufactured a jig of steel construction to improve the process.

"You have to shape the rims quickly; the wood is only pliable for a short time after it leaves the steam."

About ten years ago, Bob returned to the idea of building a full-scale stagecoach – the kind that served travellers in North America before the railroads took over most of the task. He turned to the Internet, but no exact plans were available. He used what pictures and sketches he could find, and estimated sizes, making templates up as he built the stagecoach in sections.

"I had pictures and sketches of stagecoaches up everywhere."

It was not until after the first stagecoach was finished that Bob found out that Lakeshore resident and farmer Warren Walstedt had an actual historic stagecoach stored at his farm. Bob took numerous pictures and, in comparing it for size, found his stagecoach to be only six inches longer and higher.

Bob resolved to build a second "better" stagecoach, which he did. Both stagecoaches are stored in a barn at his farm, adorned with signs that read "McCracken Stagecoach Line."

Today, Bob's son Richard runs the sawmill operation. A boom from a utility truck has been incorporated into the design, to hoist the heavy logs in place. A barn holds stacks and stacks of planks for air-drying, categorized by the type of wood, such as oak and ash. The work depends on demand.

Bob is most often found in "the workshop" producing at an amazing pace wooden wagons that look like small covered wagons. He calls them "Holly Trolleys" – named after the first one he made for his granddaughter Holly. He is now finishing his fifth Holly Trolley. He finds many of the steel wagon fittings at antique shows and flea markets.

"I am always keeping my eyes open," he says.

When developing the jig for wooden wheel construction, Bob purchased

two large heavy steel rims. One was used for the jig. Bob says he felt compelled to think of some other use for the other steel rim.

"I thought it would make a good rim for a wheel, but the only thing I know with one wheel is a wheelbarrow."

Bob built what he believes is the largest wheelbarrow in the world, standing almost six feet high and 15 feet long.

"I think it would be ideal displayed in front of a landscaping or garden centre – a real eye catcher."

Bob has a keen interest in history. He has been involved with a number of historical groups. Working with retired teacher Dorothy St. John, in 2007, he helped produce a book about the changing face of Essex County – *Staples: From Forest to Farm*. It was followed by *Comber Through the Years*, sponsored

by the Comber and District Historical Society Museum.

Bob will be 81 in June, but age does not seem to slow him down. He has plans to build a "prairie schooner" – a variation of the familiar covered wagon – one that brought settlers to the west.



A miniature covered wagon is one of Bob McCracken's favourite projects.

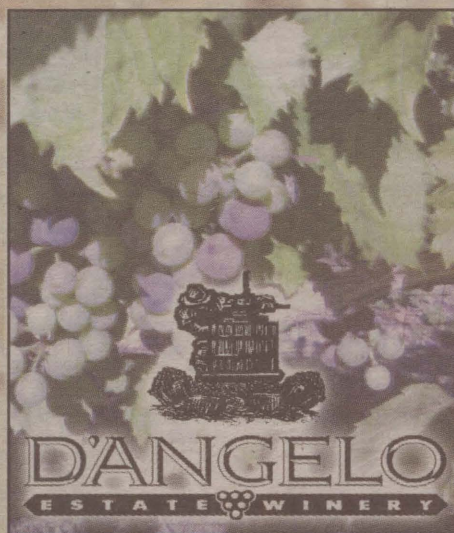


SHOP ESSEX CENTRE THIS SUMMER AND BE COOL!

We have something for everyone.
We are a full service community!
Outdoor Café's and air conditioned restaurants, sidewalk sales July 7-9.

Classic Car show - Sat. July 9th
Noon until 5 p.m.
Call 519-776-9811
mmarkham@essexbia.com

Essex Centre
Where you belong!
www.essexbia.com



D'ANGELO

ESTATE WINERY

Proudly Producing 100% Estate Grown Wines!

Visit Our On-Site Retail Store
Now Open: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm & Sunday 11am-5pm

Call To Book
Group Tours
& Tastings



5141 CONCESSION #5 NORTH
AMHERSTBURG
519-736-7959 • dangelowinery@xplornet.com
www.dangelowinery.com

Grossi

PLUMBING • HEATING • HVAC SERVICES •
SERVICING YOU SINCE 1974
www.grossiplumbing.ca

On the west end of Talbot Street, in the cultured town of Leamington; sits a quaint little shop with a showroom of approximately 1000 sq. ft. ... Everything you need to turn a house into a home.

Grossi Plumbing, Heating & HVAC Services is full of surprises ... so much more than what our name suggests!

With 35 Years of experience, we can help transform every corner of your house. Just imagine ...



What we can do for you:

Service, Installations, Renovations, Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning, Annual Premium Maintenance Plans, Geothermal, Infloor Heating, Water Heater, Fireplace, Water Filtration, Pool Heaters, Filters, Thermostats, Air Cleaners, Humidifiers, HRV/ERV Systems, Heat Pumps, Boilers, Sump / Sewage Pumps, Backflow, and So Much More...



Leamington 519-326-9018



Imagination fuels tiny trains for modeling enthusiasts

*Model train guild started
in McGregor has members
across Canada*

By Dan Schwab

Factories, a water tower, grain silos, old-tyme diners and a lighthouse all under the same roof?

It's all possible in the world of model train building.

Imagination is the fuel for these tiny trains and Essex County is a hotbed of modeling activity, with antique train enthusiasts hosting annual model train shows and developing websites devoted to their beloved hobby.

Ron Pare of McGregor started blogging about model trains in 2007.

He soon discovered he had a knack for assembling and painting the tiny models, adding more and more features to his nine foot by three foot display in his home.

"The more I built models, the more I got complimented on them," Pare says. "So I started blogging about them."

Pare wrote about each new project he undertook, from the woodcutting to gluing and staining involved in creating his mini-versions of train stations, creameries, butcher shops and other structures that make up a tiny community.

"I've probably built about 80 models, about 50 of which were sponsored by companies.

After they saw the web-

site, they would send me a model," Pare says.

To his surprise, the popularity of his blog grew among other model train hobbyists and he decided to start a modelers' guild, which now has members spanning across Canada, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

Pare also teamed up with McGregor native Mark Williams, an airbrush artist and sculptor. Through his company, Imagine That Laser Art, Williams created laser cut wood buildings for model train layouts after "having rediscovered his love of trains from childhood."

As for Pare, he plans to continue working on new projects, which he says he'll photograph and write about at every stage of construction, with plans to blog or publish the story in a model train trade magazine.

With each miniature structure Pare completes and adds to his model train layout, the excitement grows for his six-year-old autistic son, Dylan.

"Autistic children have a connection with machinery and building stuff," Pare says. "When I got into the models, Dylan was just ecstatic that dad was a builder. The fact that I was building models made me a real builder to my son."

Which includes fixing damages Dylan makes to the models, Pare adds with a laugh.

Model train building is a hobby that interests both young and old.

At any model train show, you can see grandparents explaining steam engine locomotives to their wide-eyed, curious grandchildren.

This type of nostalgia is just what the Southern Ontario Locomotive Restoration Society is hoping to cultivate.

President Bob Mitchell says the Society hopes to develop a tourist train on a soon-to-be-abandoned CN railway from Windsor through Essex, Comber, Tilbury, North Buxton and ending in Chatham.

"The idea being that this railway line is going to be abandoned in the near future apparently by CN and we want to save it and use it as an economic generator for Essex and Kent Counties," Mitchell says.

The Society has already taken the first steps toward making their dream a reality by restoring a diesel locomotive and recently acquiring a baggage car from the Canadian Pacific Railway.

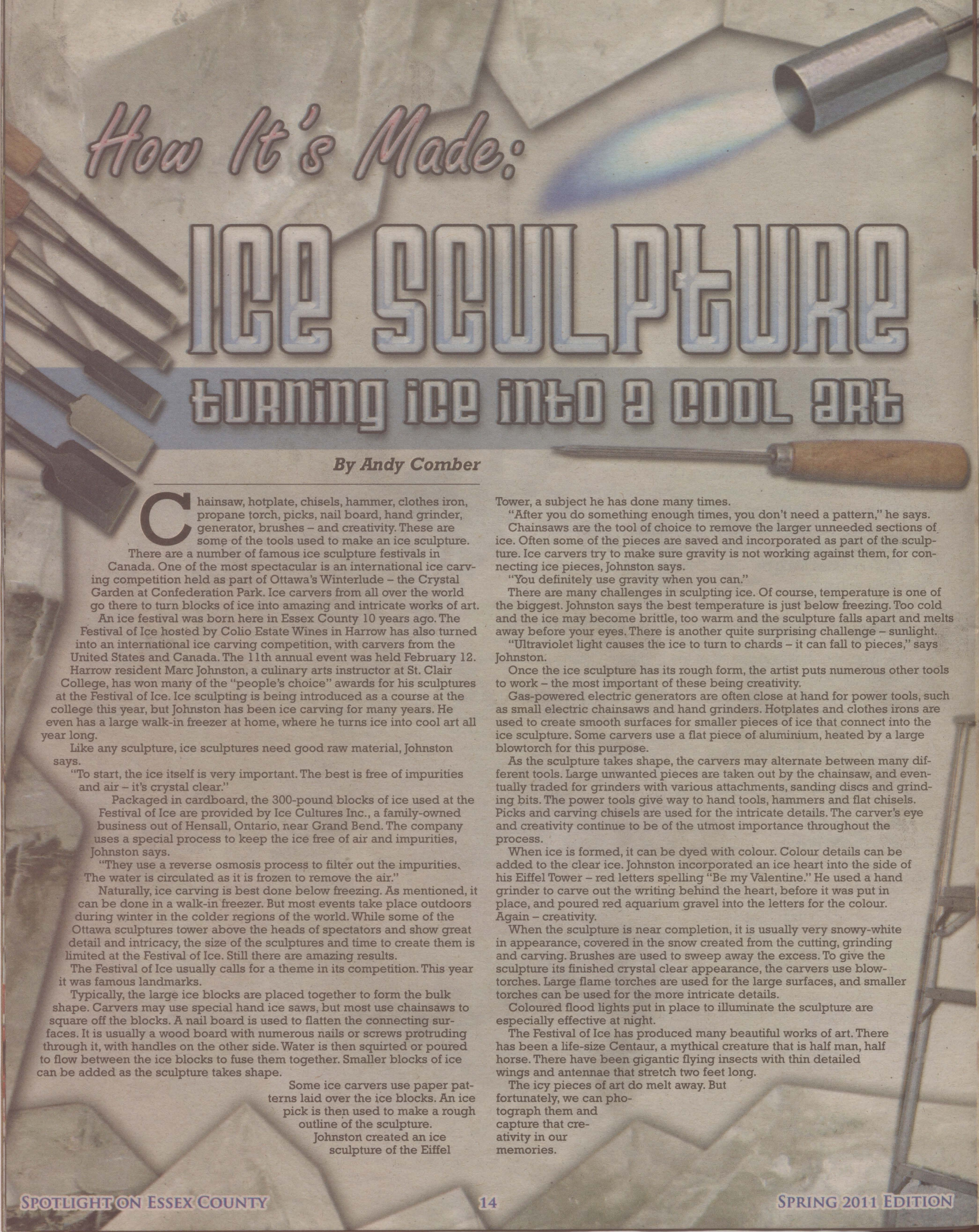
Mitchell says the Society is currently shopping for a steam locomotive to add to the plans.

"We hope to get a two-coach or a three-coach dinner train maybe, or maybe a historical excursion train," Mitchell says.

So whether they are actual size or model size, what is it about trains that attracts so many enthusiasts?

"It's just the action, the noise, and it's fun," Mitchell says.

Model Train enthusiasts of all ages enjoyed the two-day Essex Train Show in February. The annual event brings together collectors, hobbyists and newcomers to model train building.



How It's Made:

ICE SCULPTURE

TURNING ICE INTO A COOL ART

By Andy Comber

Chainsaw, hotplate, chisels, hammer, clothes iron, propane torch, picks, nail board, hand grinder, generator, brushes – and creativity. These are some of the tools used to make an ice sculpture.

There are a number of famous ice sculpture festivals in Canada. One of the most spectacular is an international ice carving competition held as part of Ottawa's Winterlude – the Crystal Garden at Confederation Park. Ice carvers from all over the world go there to turn blocks of ice into amazing and intricate works of art.

An ice festival was born here in Essex County 10 years ago. The Festival of Ice hosted by Colio Estate Wines in Harrow has also turned into an international ice carving competition, with carvers from the United States and Canada. The 11th annual event was held February 12. Harrow resident Marc Johnston, a culinary arts instructor at St. Clair College, has won many of the "people's choice" awards for his sculptures at the Festival of Ice. Ice sculpting is being introduced as a course at the college this year, but Johnston has been ice carving for many years. He even has a large walk-in freezer at home, where he turns ice into cool art all year long.

Like any sculpture, ice sculptures need good raw material, Johnston says.

"To start, the ice itself is very important. The best is free of impurities and air – it's crystal clear."

Packaged in cardboard, the 300-pound blocks of ice used at the Festival of Ice are provided by Ice Cultures Inc., a family-owned business out of Hensall, Ontario, near Grand Bend. The company uses a special process to keep the ice free of air and impurities, Johnston says.

"They use a reverse osmosis process to filter out the impurities. The water is circulated as it is frozen to remove the air."

Naturally, ice carving is best done below freezing. As mentioned, it can be done in a walk-in freezer. But most events take place outdoors during winter in the colder regions of the world. While some of the Ottawa sculptures tower above the heads of spectators and show great detail and intricacy, the size of the sculptures and time to create them is limited at the Festival of Ice. Still there are amazing results.

The Festival of Ice usually calls for a theme in its competition. This year it was famous landmarks.

Typically, the large ice blocks are placed together to form the bulk shape. Carvers may use special hand ice saws, but most use chainsaws to square off the blocks. A nail board is used to flatten the connecting surfaces. It is usually a wood board with numerous nails or screws protruding through it, with handles on the other side. Water is then squirted or poured to flow between the ice blocks to fuse them together. Smaller blocks of ice can be added as the sculpture takes shape.

Some ice carvers use paper patterns laid over the ice blocks. An ice pick is then used to make a rough outline of the sculpture.

Johnston created an ice sculpture of the Eiffel

Tower, a subject he has done many times.

"After you do something enough times, you don't need a pattern," he says.

Chainsaws are the tool of choice to remove the larger unneeded sections of ice. Often some of the pieces are saved and incorporated as part of the sculpture. Ice carvers try to make sure gravity is not working against them, for connecting ice pieces, Johnston says.

"You definitely use gravity when you can."

There are many challenges in sculpting ice. Of course, temperature is one of the biggest. Johnston says the best temperature is just below freezing. Too cold and the ice may become brittle, too warm and the sculpture falls apart and melts away before your eyes. There is another quite surprising challenge – sunlight.

"Ultraviolet light causes the ice to turn to chards – it can fall to pieces," says Johnston.

Once the ice sculpture has its rough form, the artist puts numerous other tools to work – the most important of these being creativity.

Gas-powered electric generators are often close at hand for power tools, such as small electric chainsaws and hand grinders. Hotplates and clothes irons are used to create smooth surfaces for smaller pieces of ice that connect into the ice sculpture. Some carvers use a flat piece of aluminium, heated by a large blowtorch for this purpose.

As the sculpture takes shape, the carvers may alternate between many different tools. Large unwanted pieces are taken out by the chainsaw, and eventually traded for grinders with various attachments, sanding discs and grinding bits. The power tools give way to hand tools, hammers and flat chisels. Picks and carving chisels are used for the intricate details. The carver's eye and creativity continue to be of the utmost importance throughout the process.

When ice is formed, it can be dyed with colour. Colour details can be added to the clear ice. Johnston incorporated an ice heart into the side of his Eiffel Tower – red letters spelling "Be my Valentine." He used a hand grinder to carve out the writing behind the heart, before it was put in place, and poured red aquarium gravel into the letters for the colour. Again – creativity.

When the sculpture is near completion, it is usually very snowy-white in appearance, covered in the snow created from the cutting, grinding and carving. Brushes are used to sweep away the excess. To give the sculpture its finished crystal clear appearance, the carvers use blowtorches. Large flame torches are used for the large surfaces, and smaller torches can be used for the more intricate details.

Coloured flood lights put in place to illuminate the sculpture are especially effective at night.

The Festival of Ice has produced many beautiful works of art. There has been a life-size Centaur, a mythical creature that is half man, half horse. There have been gigantic flying insects with thin detailed wings and antennae that stretch two feet long.

The icy pieces of art do melt away. But fortunately, we can photograph them and capture that creativity in our memories.



Ice sculptures begin with good quality ice.



A chainsaw is used to cut away large pieces of excess ice.



A nail board is used to roughly flatten surfaces.



A clothes iron can be used to apply paper patterns, or for smoothing small surfaces.



Power tools, sanders and grinders are used to sculpt the rough shape.

The trimmed ice blocks are put together to make the bulk of the design.



Hand or power tools: the smaller the ice carving features, the smaller the tools to shape them.



Bright coloured aquarium gravel can be used to add colour to lettering or cutouts on the ice sculpture.



As it takes shape, the sculpture is snow covered.



A large blowtorch is used to slightly melt the surface, giving it a crystal clear appearance.



Something unique.

Adding the finishing touches.

Mysteries of Essex County

UFOs, Ghosts and Other Eerie Tales

By Dan Schwab

A headless horseman rides at night on Texas Road. A ghost haunts a Kingsville restaurant. UFOs are spotted darting across the sky over Essex and Tecumseh.

While no one will ever really know whether these stories are fact or fiction, it's certain that Essex County has had plenty of reports of paranormal activity.

Several authors and historians are keeping the mysteries of this region alive by publishing these astonishing stories in books and on the Internet.

Toronto's John Robert Colombo, an author of more than 36 books on mysteries and paranormal activity, has investigated many strange occurrences in Essex County.

"Essex County, in common with the rest of southern Ontario, has a plethora of puzzles and mysteries, which have been largely overlooked because Canadians in the past have looked to

Great Britain or France for their mysteries, or to the neighbouring United States for theirs," Colombo says. "Human beings are fascinated by reports of paranormal activity with the result that one peculiar sighting that's unexplained may attract dozens of people and many of them may be self-styled ghost hunters."

In his book, *Mysteries of Ontario*, Colombo writes about the "King's Landing Ghost" in Kingsville.

The steak and seafood house located at 103 Park Street is said to be haunted by a ghost named George, Colombo writes.

The restaurant operates out of a building that was once a stately home erected in 1863, which was later abandoned in 1918 and remodeled over the next 40 years.

"George makes his presence felt in small ways," Colombo writes in *Mysteries of Ontario*. "The upstairs rooms are said to echo with footsteps. Dogs and cats bark and hiss for no reason. Lights go on and off by themselves. The bathroom door seldom remains shut. Some patrons claim to have been touched by George's cold, clammy hand."

According to the restaurant's website, the original owners of King's Landing first came in contact with George's presence in 1951.

"(They) could hear footsteps upstairs when they were below," the website says. "George also likes to turn the taps on and leave them running."

Greg Triferis, current owner of King's Landing, says he's

never
come in
contact with
George the
ghost.

"I personally have not (seen it, heard it) but I don't hang around upstairs either," Triferis says.

About 35 kilometres northwest of King's Landing Restaurant and its ghostly visitor, there is a stretch of road that seems to be linked with more than a dozen different urban legends.

Texas Road, which runs between Amherstburg and LaSalle, has been said to be haunted by everything from a headless horseman to a mysterious figure in a white shroud to a group of Satanists.

In *Mysteries of Ontario*, Colombo writes about a stretch of Texas Road that passes through a gully, which is said to be haunted. Legend has it that one man murdered another at this spot and the "dead man's spirit cannot leave the burial site and the murderer is fated to return on certain nights to the scene of the crime."

Colombo also writes that one tradition says that if

a motorist drives over this bridge three times, the ignition will fail.

"Disturbances may date from the early 1960s when, one explanation has it, as a Halloween prank, kids pulled a wire and then a white bed sheet across the road, startling motorists," Colombo writes. "Or disturbances may date from the above-mentioned accident that occurred a century ago on Texas Road, near the Verdi Club, when a rider was murdered and his body mangled. The man's spirit returns and rides the road as a headless horseman."

Windsor-born filmmaker Dylan Pearce made a horror movie inspired by the legend, aptly titled "Texas Road."

The legend of Texas Road has even made its way onto Facebook.

A Facebook group, called "Stories of Texas Road," has attracted 1,640 members.

The webpage has as many doubters as believers, but many new tales of Texas Road can be found on the webpage.

Members of the group claim to have seen and heard many things while traveling on the road, including a mysterious 19th century horse-drawn carriage, three sets of red eyes, children's disembodied voices, a woman walking a leash with no dog on it, flying black shadows, bright white orbs and grave diggers, located nearby at a cemetery.

Another Facebook page, created by a Maidstone man, is devoted to another kind of mystery.

"UFO Seekers of Essex County" was started by Rick Rock as a way for local people to share their experiences with UFOs.

On the webpage, Rock details his encounter with what he believes were extraterrestrial beings.

"When I was five years old, I had my first experience with beings at the doorway of my bedroom," he writes. "I was in a frozen state, I could not move ... all I could see in the darkness was two tall beings, thin and with a light bluish tint skin."

Chris Rutkowski, author of *The Big Book of UFOs*, has several eyewitness accounts of Essex County UFO sightings in his database, which includes stories from across Canada.

A 2009 sighting over Tecumseh was described as "five diamond shaped objects flying in unison like a flock of birds, but there were no wings. It was almost as if they were connected because the way they maneuvered, the space between them did not get larger or smaller."

Another UFO report from Rutkowski's database from 2003 details a sighting over Essex. The entry was written by the mother of a woman who allegedly saw a UFO flying outside her farmhouse.

"Whatever it was seemed to know she was looking at it because it started floating across the dirt road and across the field towards her house," the mother claimed. "She was frozen to the sink with fear. She could not make out any shape because of it being so dark and the lights being so bright but she felt that it was huge, 50 feet wide or so by 20 feet tall. She heard no sound. All of a sudden the lights went out and the thing was gone."

Can these stories be true? Or are they the result of over-active imaginations? We'll never know for sure. But one thing is certain: Essex County is full of strange mysteries.

All About BOOKS



Essex County

By Jeff Lemire

Local Author!

Refreshingly unconventional is one way to describe Jeff Lemire's three-piece collection of graphic novels called *Essex County*. This compilation is a generous 510 pages of black and white sketches that tell three interrelated stories: *Tales from the Farm*, *Ghost Stories*, and *Country Nurse* (plus a few extras).

By its very definition, the graphic novel begins as an unconventional literary work. A story told in comics challenges the reader to interpret emotions, moods and unspoken details in ways that traditional novels seldom do. I was delighted to learn that I could be drawn into the emotion of a moment built upon four simple frames, none of them containing a single word. That's the power of Jeff Lemire's artistry, that his work can evoke as much atmosphere and mood with a simple line drawing as a traditional novelist can do with several pages of words.

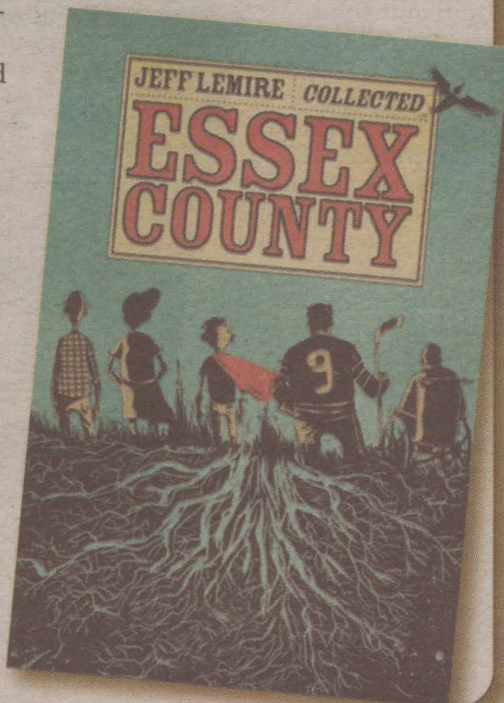
But Lemire's work also stands apart in the way it transcends the usual bounds of the graphic novel. Although 10-year-old Lester Papineau aspires to be a superhero (and sports a mask and cape to prove it), he's really just a 10-year-old boy who has suffered terrible loss. His mother has died, his father is unknown to him, and his uncle Ken is struggling to do the right thing by caring for Lester on an Essex County farm. Although Woodslee is never actually mentioned, the family names used (Papineau, Lebeuf, Quenneville, Byrne, Diemer) and the references to Jim's Esso, "the 73's" and Dairy Freeze (sic) all point to a Woodslee-area setting. Lemire now calls Toronto home, but he grew up in that very community.

Heartache and loss go hand-in-hand with family secrets in *Essex County*. Lemire adeptly incorporates flashbacks (sketched in shades of grey)

into each plot, providing context and meaning to the present-day circumstances of each main character – Lester and former NHLer Jimmy Lebeuf in *Tales from the Farm*, elderly Lou Lebeuf in *Ghost Stories*, and nurse Anne Quenneville in *Country Nurse*. The themes and the language are clearly intended for adult readers.

Lemire has received multiple Eisner Awards for his comics, the Joe Shuster Award for Best Canadian Cartoonist in 2008, and the American Library Association's Alex Award, which recognizes books for adults that also appeal to teens. Most recently, *Essex County* was celebrated as one of the top five essential Canadian novels of the last decade during CBC Radio's Canada Reads competition. Although it predictably challenged the panelists, who debated its merits as a "novel" and found it wanting, it clearly raised the profile of the graphic novel as well as the profile of Essex County. As one Twitter writer opined, *Essex County* is a "watershed finalist that'll open doors and minds."

Reviewed by Spotlight Publisher Laurie Brett.



Tour Olinda: Essex County's Only Ghost Town

By Chris Carter

Local Author!

Chris Carter, researcher and author, uses old and new maps of Olinda and the surrounding towns – Albertville, Kingsville, Leamington – to tell the story of Olinda dating as far back as the year 1803 when the town existed with a population of 801. Olinda was once a thriving manufacturing location built around a successful iron ore furnace and a broom factory. The community still exists today, but what a change.

Chris Carter gives a guided adventure of the town's sights, some still standing today. He includes photographs of such places as the Baptist Church, Universalist United Church, the cemeteries (including a native cemetery), homes and barns. Also included are pictures of some wares and some of the original settlers (Thompson, Tofflemire, Bruner and others). Some of the generational families still reside in the area. Because of this, they were able to contribute to the pictures contained in the book.

The tour is broken down into what Chris calls "trolley stops" – nine in all – that allow the tourist to start from the beginning of the

book and follow along the path, or select one of the stops that may be of interest. With many stops along the way, you may wish to do it all in a day or take each stop as a separate tour of interest. At the back of the book is a section called "For Those Who Want More." More

indeed! This goes into the history and family tales. So, if you have relatives or friends that stem from the original settlers, you may find this book leads to exciting recollections. Enjoy the tour!

Chris Carter is a historical researcher and conveys his findings in his own words. He resides in Harrow and is also the author of *Tour Colchester: The Way We Were*. He has plans to release two more tour books in the near future.

Tour Olinda: Essex County's Only Ghost Town is available at local bookstores and tourist locations. It is spiral bound to lay flat as you walk the path.

Reviewed by Connie-Jean Latam, the author of "Everything Is Food! Words of Wisdom From a Small Child." Connie-Jean Latam is also a Doctor of Natural Medicine and a Certified Trauma, Loss and Addictions Counsellor.



Erie Shore VINEYARD

Erie Shore Vineyard is an Award Winning Estate Winery
Specializing in 100% Estate Grown VQA Wines

410 County Road 50 West, Harrow ON | www.erieshore.ca | 519.738.9858

Creative Family Therapy Techniques:

Play, Art and Expressive Activities to Engage Children in Family Sessions

Edited by Liana Lowenstein

Now in its sixth reprint in less than a year, this book is a sensational tool for all, especially families. Yes, families can use this book, not just therapists. The unique tools that are listed in the sessions allow "Communication" and "Expression of Feelings" in a safe way. Fears, anxiety, anger and more are addressed. Working with families is the most effective groundbreaking way to target family issues. This book helps in the case of old and present issues that parents may have, such as their unresolved childhood and / or present relationships. Comprehensive assistance is given in parenting skill exercises so the patterns and issues do not carry on.

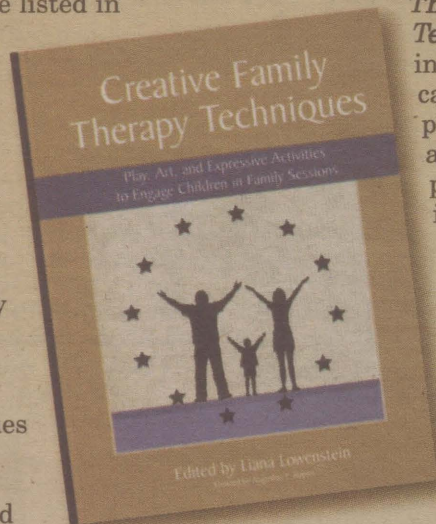
Over 50 therapists and professionals have contributed to this book, including local therapist Connie-Jean Latam, a Certified

Trauma and Loss Counsellor. Her submission, "I'm an Animal," has been filmed and used at a national play therapy conference.

Creative Family Therapy Techniques includes methodical, step-by-step procedures that are written in plain English and include a list of all the supplies needed to proceed. The "Art and Play" therapy exercises that dominate this book are easy to implement and provide an excellent tool for

the parent, teacher or therapist to use.

Creative Family Therapy Techniques is available from retail bookstores or can be obtained directly from Liana Lowenstein. For more information, email liana@globalserve.net or call 416-575-7836.



The Charming Quirks of Others

By Alexander McCall Smith

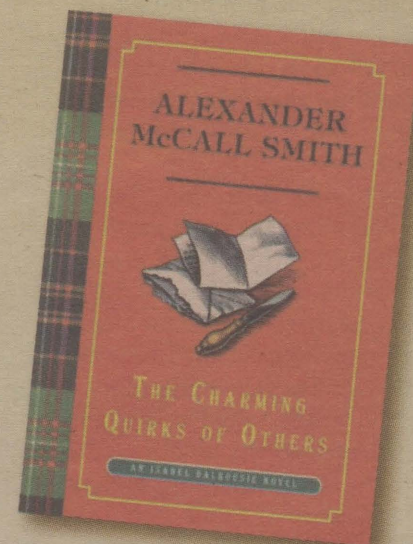
A helpful thing to know if you're scrounging around the library trying to find Alexander McCall Smith's books, is that the author's last name is not Smith, but McCall Smith, so you need to turn yourself around and head for the McC section.

The Charming Quirks of Others is the seventh instalment of the Isabel Dalhousie series, a comfortable set of books you can read for their philosophical arguments without having to worry about impending distress. There is a little mystery to be solved but it does not involve police departments, S.W.A.T. teams, or the forensic sciences. Everything will be worked out in such a patient, civilized manner that the reader will scarcely be aware of it. In fact, many reviewers have mentioned that in this particular series of McCall Smith's, nothing really happens, and while this is not exactly true, it seems true. Part of this, I think, has to do with McCall Smith's splendid control, piloting the reader down a meandering river on a slow barge with instructions to take in the sights and relax.

Alexander McCall Smith has

been so successful in his writing that he could very well sit back and relax himself, but he maintains a hectic schedule of public appearances and is a very witty and engaging speaker. This is a charming man, with a charming book.

Reviewed by Margaret J. McMaster, the author of Carried Away on Licorice Days, Babysitter Out of Control!, and Looking for Love on Mongo Tongo.



Room

By Emma Donoghue

You may have already heard the buzz about *Room*. It's the kind of book you don't stop thinking about once you've put it down. Here is the world through the eyes of the narrator, five-year-old Jack:

Your whole world is 11 feet square. There is Rug, Bed and Wardrobe. You have a TV but you know that everything on it is not real. The only things that are real are in Room, and the only people in it are you and Ma.

Every day has a routine that has lasted your whole life: breakfast, bath, TV (not too much or it will turn you into a zombie), PhysEd and reading. When nine o'clock comes, you have to be in Wardrobe so Old Nick doesn't see you.

But Room isn't safe anymore.

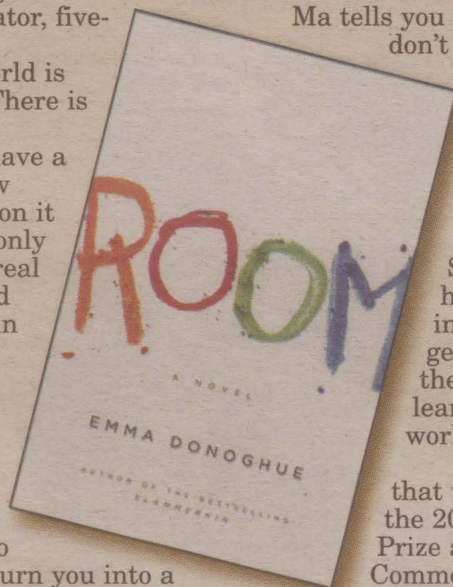
You and Ma are planning The Great Escape. You're scared, but Ma says you have to be scared but brave: "scave"—that's a word sandwich.

Ma tells you a secret that you don't believe: the things on TV are real. There is something called Outside. Outside is huge, and you imagine it must be like Outer Space. Somehow you will have to go out there into the universe and get Ma rescued. And then you will have to learn to live in that big world.

Read the sensation that was shortlisted for the 2010 Man Booker Prize award and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. It has been called

"potent, darkly beautiful, and revelatory."

Reviewed by Elly Takaki, Branch Supervisor at McGregor Public Library.



The Book Thief

By Markus Zusak

If you didn't live in Germany during the time of the Second World War, take a journey back in time with *The Book Thief*. It isn't your typical war story at all. It is a story of how everyday people get through difficult times.

The main character, Liesel Meminger, is a young girl. She and her brother are being taken by their mother to stay with a foster family, Hans and Rosa Hubermann. Her brother doesn't survive the journey there, but Liesel does. She will be safe there.

Liesel's life is going to change in ways she never imagined possible. There are many new people in her life – Papa & Mama (her foster parents), Rudy (the boy next door who becomes her best friend), and the many neighbours and friends of Himmel Street.

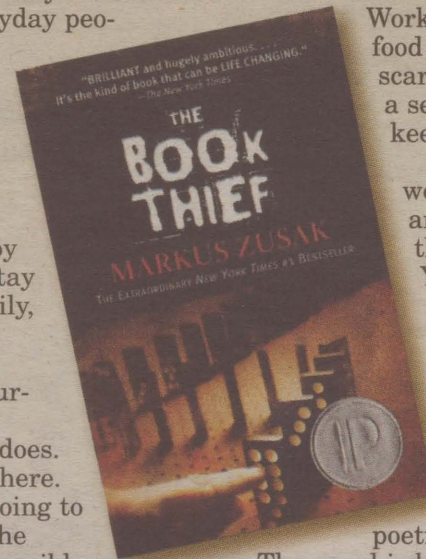
At first Liesel lives the life of a regular girl, going to school, making friends and doing chores with Mama. But as the war creeps closer things start to change. Work is less available, food is more and more scarce, and then there is a secret that Liesel must keep.

The Book Thief has won numerous awards and has been listed on the New York Times Young Readers list for over 100 weeks. This brilliantly written novel gives insight into a time and a situation that is beyond comprehension for many of us. Zusak is

poetic in his writing style.

The novel is beautiful, yet tragic. A memorable read that you won't soon forget.

Reviewed by Lynda Schlichther, a member of Essex Public Library's Adult Book Club.



THE ORDINARY
PEOPLE OF ESSEX
Environment, Culture, and Economy
on the Frontier of Upper Canada

JOHN CLARKE

'THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF ESSEX' FROM 200 YEARS AGO

By Dan Schwab

They came from the Eastern United States, England, Ireland, Scotland and other places, settling on a region of very flat land covered by green forests and vast wetlands.

They cleared away the trees and searched for good soil to develop farmland where they toiled away planting wheat, corn and oats, in the pre-Industrial mid-18th century.

These hard-working folk are what Carleton University research professor John Clarke calls "The Ordinary People of Essex."

In his book of the same title, Clarke provides an overview of these early settlers of Essex County, their successes and failures, and how their agricultural practices shaped the history of the region.

Although he's only lived in Essex County for short periods of time, Clarke spent the past 35 years researching the region.

The Irish immigrant came to southern Ontario in 1965 and his historical work on Essex County began as a Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Western Ontario.

"It just grew. The more you got to know the place, the more there was to know," Clarke says.

For his latest book, which was published last December by McGill-Queen's University Press, Clarke performed what he calls "glorified detective work," hunting for 200-year-old documents at the University of Windsor, the Hiram-Walker Historical Museum, the Detroit Public Library and even London, England.

The story of *The Ordinary People of Essex* begins in 1788, about a generation after the region was first settled, and extends nearly six decades until 1850.

"The records were unusually good for the early period," Clarke says. "You could get a cross-section as of 1825 using the assessment rolls. Then the census came along for 1850 and there was an unusually rich source of material."

Clarke found very detailed historical information, with maps showing every land parcel ever owned in Essex County along with the date of each land patent.

"Every lot in Essex County I have examined to see who owned it and what the price of land was," Clarke says. "When writing the book, I tried to write it from the perspective of someone who could pick this up and, if he didn't have a statistical background, could ignore that stuff."

In this way, the book tells the story of settlers who were attracted by this new region of unfarmed land.

Land was especially available to Americans who were on their way westward. In the 1830s, under the British system, land in Essex County was distributed according to an individual's position in the social or military system of the time, as a reward for service.

"Land was the business of wealth and everyone was into accumulation," Clarke says. "So you'd try to get as much as you could. So you had guys who were very early on speculating in land and owning much more land than they could hope to farm."

In some cases, landowners sold off their property for lumber and potash.

Clarke writes about other farmers' struggles with poor-quality soil.

"About 60 per cent of the land in Essex County was poor land," Clarke says. "Around Essex Village, to the middle of the county, was on what is called Brookston clay soil, which is poorly drained. (Farmers) couldn't deal with that using the technology of the time."

Unlike the more "scientific" farming methods practiced across the region today, with farmers using better irrigation and drainage systems,

biotechnology and chemical fertilizers, early settlers were unable to invest much into the sustainability of their fields.

In the book, Clarke quotes a farmer named Iler who says, "We just kept cropping and cropping and we knew the yields were going down but it was too costly."

Around 1840, discussions began around extensive versus intensive agriculture.

British agriculturalists suggested adding manure and lime to Essex County fields to produce better yields.

"That's fine if you're heavily capitalized, but if you're a backwoods farmer you probably couldn't afford that and why bother when you're getting 20 bushels of wheat per acre every year? You were already doing very well."

So, the farmers who could afford to practice "scientific" agricultural methods didn't do as well financially in the short term as those who were just clearing the land and getting as much off of it as they possibly could.

They planted wheat crops, which drove the economic engine of Ontario in the mid-19th century.

But Essex County is much more diversified than other areas of the province and has the capacity for corn agriculture because of the climate.

"Climatically, it's the banana belt, so that attracted people," Clarke says. "You could get your crops in earlier and you had a longer season to take them out."

Farmers of different ethnic backgrounds applied the farming methods of the old country to their land in Essex County.

"If you look at the acreage that was in corn, the bigger acreages were not with the Americans or Canadian-born. The biggest yields are actually with the immigrants," Clarke says.

Farmers in that time had very little livestock, usually only enough for their own needs to make cheese or wool.

Railroads were constructed across the region beginning around 1850, leading towards Essex Village where, "coincidentally," Canada's first prime minister, John A. Macdonald, had land. Macdonald later sold that land and used the money for his election campaign.

Clarke says the railroads played an important role in the later development of Essex County.

"If you had land close to the railway, you're starting to sell small parcels of land rather than big parcels of land, with a premium on the price," he says.

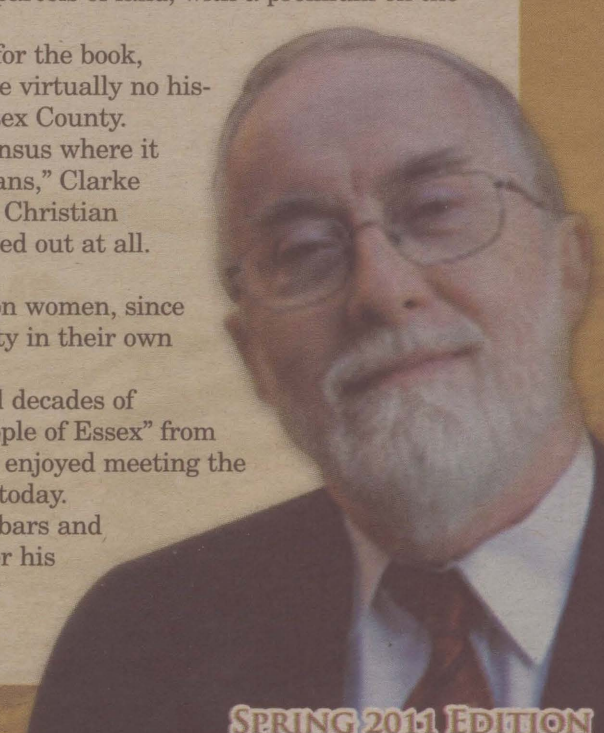
While conducting research for the book, Clarke was surprised there were virtually no historical records of Natives in Essex County.

"They only appear in the census where it talks about people who are pagans," Clarke says. "But obviously there were Christian Indians and they don't get singled out at all. The records are silent on that."

The records are also scant on women, since most of them didn't own property in their own right.

While Clarke has conducted decades of research into the "Ordinary People of Essex" from hundreds of years ago, he's also enjoyed meeting the people of the region living here today.

"I met people and drank in bars and met the clergy," Clarke says over his decades of research and writing about the region. "And I really liked the place."



Natural Treasures of Essex County

*I had a dream, and in that dream,
far, far away from winter's sting,
I heard the siren call of spring,
and climbed onto a martin's wing!*

Excerpt from the poem "...On A Martin's Wing I Rode"
by Mary Wilson

From Open Skies to Open Hearts: Essex County's Purple Martins

By Dan Bissonnette

Each spring, dozens of self-described landlords across Essex County look forward to the return of their favourite tenants. In early April, they anxiously prepare their apartments and other dwellings to receive their guests. Their tenant of choice is the Purple Martin, a bird that has caught the interest of many with its high-flying, aerial acrobatics and through its unique relationship with humans.

The Purple Martin (*Progne subis*) is the largest member of the swallow family. Adult males can grow up to 8 inches long (20 centimetres) and occasionally larger, with a wing span of 10 inches (25 centimetres). Its name is in reference to the dark purple hue of the adult male, which has a distinct iridescence on its head and across its upper wings. Females are paler in colour, with a speckled, pale grey breast. This species is also recognized by its call, which can be described as a low-pitched, rolling twitter.

One significant characteristic in the nesting habits of the Purple Martins found in eastern North America is their complete dependence on man-made nesting structures. This quirk likely originated hundreds of years ago, when Native Americans first enticed these birds to nest inside hollowed out gourds hung from tree branches. Plastic replicas of gourds continue

to be used in combination with houses and are viewed by many landlords as an essential tool for attracting these birds.

John Balga of Essex is one such landlord. After many disappointing years of trying to attract these birds, he welcomed the first nesting pairs to his property in 1995. A few years later in 2001, he and a handful of others started the Essex County Purple Martin Association. For John and his fellow landlords, early spring is a time of anticipation as they prepare for the return of these special tenants.

"Before they arrive, I add some pine needles or straw to the nest boxes, set up an oyster shell feeder and some extra perching areas nearby," says Balga. "After spending the winter in the Amazon Basin, the Martins return, usually during the second week in April. By the first week in May, pairs are beginning their nest building."

Another characteristic of these birds that likely developed in conjunction with their nesting habits is their social qualities. Unlike many other species of birds that tend to nest as isolated pairs, Purple Martins nest in groups, referred to as colonies. In terms of mated pairs, colony sizes have ranged from 3 pairs to as many as 60. Despite the occasional conflict over a vacant nest box, or even an available female, the colony members tend to get along and function as a community.

Like other members of the swallow family, Purple Martins are aerial insectivores, meaning that they exclusively eat insects and do so while in flight. Despite early claims that a single Purple Martin could eat 1,000 mosquitoes in one day, research has shown that these birds eat few, if any mosquitoes. Their diet is actually diverse and they will eat a wide variety of insects. This "life on the wing" specialization has allowed them to develop a renowned ability of flight, able to soar at great speeds while changing direction almost effortlessly.

However, the specialized life of an aerial insectivore can lead to hardships in times when insects become scarce. Balga remembers one particular year as a difficult time.

"Every two or three years, it seems that we have a weather phenomenon that knocks back the population," says Balga. "In the spring of 2009, we had a lingering cold front and at least 50 per cent of our fledglings died. Their parents simply could not find anything to feed them."

Overall, the populations of Purple Martins and other aerial insectivores are in gen-

To learn more about the Essex County Purple Martin Association, visit their website at <http://essexpurplemartins.ca>.





eral decline. Bird Studies Canada recently reported that Purple Martin populations have dropped by over 50 per cent across their Canadian range within the past 20 years. Increasingly erratic weather and habitat loss, which can affect the stability of insect populations, are suspected causes.

In spite of this daunting situation, the Essex County Purple Martin Association continues its work to sustain this species. One important priority of this group is having veteran members share their experience with newcomers. Randy Marentette of Cottam was one such new member who was able to benefit from the experience of his fellow landlords and attract Purple Martins in his first year.

"When I received a Purple Martin house as a present, I wasn't sure where to begin," says Marentette. "When I joined, they told me about the importance of

keeping competing birds out of the boxes and suggested that I add some gourds. I also played a CD of martin calls in the early morning. You've got to invest the time, but it's worth it. Last year, we had four pairs and the whole family enjoyed them. Each evening, they returned to their roost at 8:40, like clockwork. They're familiar with us, almost to the point of being pets."

Randy's experiences reflect the overall results of his fellow members. In 2010, despite the tornado in Leamington that damaged some nesting sites, there were successes. Through the combined efforts of some 40 members, over 1,850 fledglings were raised that year. Thanks to the dedication of these individuals, we can hope to have these outgoing, acrobatic creatures grace the skies of Essex County for years to come.

Dan Bissonnette is the Program Coordinator for The Naturalized Habitat Network.

(Photos by Dan Bissonnette & John Balga)



LEAMINGTON MARINA

"A Deep Water Marina"

NEW Rebuilt Marina

New Seasonal docks in 2011

Now offering rates for boats under 20 ft.

CHARTER FISHERMAN MONTHLY RATES AVAILABLE

CALL FOR INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR NEW BOATERS

Enjoy our themed weekends, live entertainment and picturesque setting. A character of sport fisherman's dream, Leamington Marina is the perfect playground to spend your recreational past time.

Visit our website at www.leamington.ca/marina to view our recently upgraded facilities, rates and services.

For information contact Ronan Oliver at 519-326-0834 or Toll-Free 1-888-858-3334, or email: roliver@leamington.ca

ADVERTISE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE OF...

SPOTLIGHT ON ESSEX COUNTY



CALL & SPEAK WITH OUR SALES REP ERIN TODAY!

519.776.4268

Jeff's **nofrills**™
lower food prices

WON'T BE BEAT™



nofrills. WON'T BE BEAT™

nofrills.ca

53 Arthur Ave., Essex

GREAT SAVINGS

FRED G. POOK LIMITED

William G. Pook President

800 Erie St. S. P.O. Box 910 Harrow, Ontario N0R 1G0

(519) 738-4817

Fax (519) 738-9463



CONTINUING TO SERVE WINDSOR, ESSEX COUNTY AND PEELE ISLAND FOR OVER 50 YEARS.

A Taste of Essex County

By Laurie Brett

Pelee Island Winery

A dense aroma of aged French oak mixed with a hint of fermented grapes wafts through the barrel room at Pelee Island Winery in Kingsville. Standing in the shadow of over a dozen enormous casks, the day's tour guide explains that the barrels must be moistened four times a week to keep them from drying out. Small puddles of water on the concrete floor bear witness to the morning's bath.

At the end of a very informative tour – which runs three times a day, seven days a week, and takes participants through rooms filled with oak barrels, stainless steel vats and holding tanks, a press room and a sophisticated bottling operation – it's a surprise to end up inside another cask, this one turned on its side and furnished with a table and two benches.

For over 25 years, Wine Master Walter Schmoranz has been working to develop Pelee Island Winery into Canada's largest private estate winery. With 550 acres of vineyards on Pelee Island, the winery is now the largest seller of VQA wines to the LCBO.

The unique setting, climate and soil conditions of Pelee Island offer a number of advantages, Schmoranz says. Being surrounded by water ensures "a really safe early spring," with a very low risk of frost. A long growing period means that the plants have a longer post-harvest rest period in which to recuperate before the winter sets in. Lots of sunshine and a lack of irrigation problems on the island (thanks to a century-old dyke system) also contribute to optimal conditions.

The benefits that accrue to the grapes are noticeable.

"We seem to get a better colour extraction from grapes from the island," Schmoranz says. The reds are "more intense and robust," the whites "a bit more elegant and lean – crisper."

The unique fauna and flora of Pelee Island are also appreciated and celebrated by the winery, both in the labeling of their bottles and in their stewardship of a 60-acre savannah connected to their vineyard.

Schmoranz explains that the winery started selling wines by the grape variety in the early 1980s, at a time when people generally asked for "Burgundy" instead of Pinot Noir or Cabernet.

As an aid to memory, the winery selected images of Pelee Island species to grace the labels – the Monarch butterfly for the Vidal, the Great Egret for the Riesling, the Blue-tailed Skink for the Cabernet Franc – but they also included the name of the grape on each label. It's a marketing plan that continues to serve them well. Moreover, the island provides ample inspiration for each new wine or series.

The Alvar collection of wines is one such series. Pelee Island is carved out of limestone with a layer of Toledo clay on top. Schmoranz says that alvars – sections of limestone covered thinly with soil or none at all – create "a unique biosphere" on the island. Through the name "Alvar", four new wines – the 2009 Alvar Semillon Sauvignon Blanc, the 2008 Alvar Chardonnay Gewurztraminer, the 2009 Alvar Cabernet Sauvignon, and the 2008 Alvar Pinot Noir – draw attention to yet another aspect of Pelee Island's unique habitat.

With a retail store in Kingsville and a pavilion on the island, Pelee Island Winery not only continues to be one of the area's top attractions, but it also continues to remind us of the natural wonders that surround us.

Blue Cheese Burgers

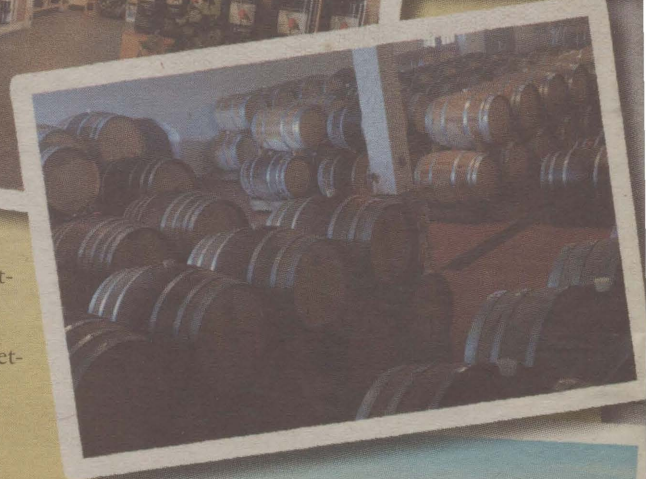
Take your barbecue to the next level with these burgers and a nice Pelee Island wine. Try Pelee Island Winery's 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2009 Cabernet Franc or 2009 Baco Noir.

Ingredients

- 3 pounds lean ground beef
- 4 ounces blue cheese, crumbled
- 1/2 cup minced fresh chives
- 1/4 tsp. hot pepper sauce
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 12 French rolls or hamburger buns

Directions

In a large bowl, mix the ground beef, blue cheese, chives, hot pepper sauce, Worcestershire sauce, black pepper, salt and mustard. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Preheat grill for high heat. Gently form burger mixture into about 12 patties. Oil the grill. Grill patties 5 minutes per side, or until well done. Serve on rolls.



**Spotlight
is now
available by
subscription!**

SPOTLIGHT ON ESSEX COUNTY

1 YEAR - 4 ISSUES

(March, June, September, November)

\$15⁺ HST



**Do you live outside
our distribution zone?**

**Would you like to
receive Spotlight at home?**

SUBSCRIBE BY PHONE

519.776.4268

Please have your VISA or Mastercard ready

**It's Easy to
Subscribe!**

SUBSCRIBE BY MAIL

Send cheque to:

Essex Free Press
16 Centre Street
Essex, ON N8M 1N9

**ESSEX
freepress**

SUBSCRIBE IN PERSON

We're conveniently located in the heart of downtown Essex at 16 Centre St.
Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30 (Closed from 12 to 1 most days)

RIZZO'S CROSSING 23 Victoria Ave., Essex
Famous Catering Co.
Italian Eatery & Banquet Hall **519-776-5400**
Providing You with Years of Experience.

**Now Available...
RIZZO'S AT
YOUR FINGERTIPS.**
Conveniently prepared fresh
and frozen with your busy
lifestyle in mind!

**Famous for Our Quality
Home Cooking and Quantity.**

**Thinking about becoming
a Snowbird?**

WILDWOOD
Golf & R.V. Resort

Now might be the time to make your move. You know, summers here, winters there. By "there" we mean Florida, Arizona, California or Texas.

Any place warm, anywhere but here where the winters are long, cold and dreary. Wildwood Golf & RV Resort has everything you are looking for in an Adult Seasonal RV Community, we are approximately 25 minutes from the Detroit/Windsor Ambassador Bridge and we are centrally located to great shopping, dining & many area attractions. So, if you are looking for a place to stay from May to October this is the place for you.

**Play...Relax...
Enjoy!**

To View our Homes Please Call for an Appointment. Starting at \$53,000.00

WILDWOOD GOLF & RV RESORT • 11th Concession Rd., McGregor
(519) 726-6176, ext. 10 • 1-866-994-9699, ext. 11 • wildwoodgolfandrresort.com

INTRODUCING THE AJAC CAR OF THE YEAR CHEVY CRUZE

Chevrolet has been selling the Cruze globally for over a year in 60 countries around the world. Standard-equipped with 10 air-bags. That's best-in-class. Also standard are StabiliTrak electronic stability control system with rollover sensing, traction control and four-wheel, anti-lock brakes. NGTSA tests showed StabiliTrak reduces the risk of a single-vehicle crash by 36 per cent. The Cruze has won five-star safety ratings by NHTSA (U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) tests, and it's the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's top safety pick in its class. "The Cruze is the only car in the compact class to win these." The Eco's NR Can highway fuel consumption rating is better than some hybrid competitors. "But what sets us apart from the competition is how quiet this vehicle is." The customer the standard 60/40 split folding rear seats that open up to increase truck space with a pass-through to the trunk.



THE 'CRUZE TO 100 CONTEST'

BUY A CRUZE AND YOU COULD
WIN \$5000

Only at
Dave Hitchcock
CHEVROLET

Our New Showroom



OPENING DEC 2011

**Switch
to Hitch!**



Bonnie Jackson



Paul Griffiths



Roy Griffiths



Rick Giroux



Kevin Iannicello



Chuck Monette



Ron Ouellette



Jeff Smith



George Winter



Tim Dupuis

The Hitchcock Way • Professional, Considerate and Attentive.
Our specialized sales staff will make you our best offer upfront, with full disclosure that will allow you, our valued customer, to make an informed decision on your terms.



Only 15 Minutes to a Great Deal!

Dave Hitchcock

CHEVROLET

ESSEX • ONTARIO

224 TALBOT ST. N. ESSEX • 519-776-4222

Visit us on



APPLY FOR CREDIT OR BROWSE ONLINE

www.headtohitchcocks.com